

AIRBORNE



BADGER AIRBORNE NEWS

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION • BADGER STATE CHAPTER

March 2009



The All Americans

New Life Members

Harvey Johnson
Soldatna, Alaska

Lenny Shier
Chetek
(Viking Chapter Transfer
Woo Hoo & Hooah!)

Welcome Brothers to the
Badger State Chapter of the
World's Greatest Airborne
Association!

Static Line Magazine

Don Lassen's in Airborne
Heaven but his spirit lives in
the Static Line Monthly.

"Don did a good thing that
honors and personally connects
the Airborne from all units and
the past. More people should
subscribe to it! - BSC Member
Howard Rennhack (+ 2000 jumps!)
and 325 Man of the Year.

**Subscribe to The Static
Line for only \$40 a year:**
Static Line Magazine
Box 87518
College Park, GA 30337-
0518

By Phone:
Phone: (770) 478-5301
Fax: (770) 961-2838
staticlinemagazine.com
GO AIRBORNE!

Historic 82nd, 101st Airborne Meeting

*Nicest bunch of 101st
Airborne guys we've
ever met!*

Sooooooooooooo, these guys were on
OUR side! You'd never know it
when we were younger right?

Thanks to Jim Romlein of the Old
Abes, Wisconsin's 101st Airborne
Association Chapter, we were invited
to join the Screaming Eagles for
their annual January Eagle Watch
in Sauk City and attend their
meeting where we talked about
Airborne Days and the WWII Airborne
Heroes Dinner.

Our Airborne Brothers are interested
in joining these events and will be
in contact with our BSC Chair Mike
Haller. Mike has arranged with the

Baraboo Air Show to have an
Airborne booth and give tours of
a C-47, June 26-30. We hope to
have a weapons exhibit, Airborne
History including a Glider display;
Airborne Recruiters and possibly
active duty 82nd Paratroopers.
There will be a jump by the 101st
Airborne Division.

Tom Gaukel is heading up the
WWII heroes Dinner. It is scheduled
for July 11 at the Sauk Prairie VFW.
Details should be finalized at the
March 28th BSC meeting at King.



*L-R- Tom Gaukel, Bob Mingus, Mike Haller, Bill
Kloss, and Phil Kallas. Bob & Bill are members of the
BSC & Old Abes and we're recruiting Phil, a great
501st guy! (Ain't they all?!!) - Laney photo)*

If you can help with either or both of
these events please contact Sean
Beaudette, Airborne Days Committee
Chair, Mike or Tom. (numbers
on page 2. Let's work to make these
missions huge successes! AIRBORNE!

2/321st Airborne Artillery invites BSC to Bragg Deployment Ball

There will be no All-American week this year
because the Division will again be fighting
abroad.

But there is a party of another sort, hosted by our
friends of the 2/321st Airborne Arty. This is the
same group that sent three Paratroopers to our
Sept. meeting last year. Here's their invitation:

In regard to the 2-321st (ABN) Field Artillery All Ranks Ball:

*The event will occur on June 12th 2009 at the FT.
Bragg Officers Club at 1800 hrs, as the last formal
event prior to our units deployment in the
summer of 2009.*

*We would like to know if there is any support your
organization could provide for the Paratroopers
to help defer the costs of the ball.*

Any contribution would be greatly appreciate.

*Additionally we would like for a few of your mem-
bers to attend the event to recognize the Badger's
for their support and to continue to foster the rela-
tionship between our two units.*

Thank you and have a Great Airborne Day!

All the Way!

*CPT Albert Merkel
2/321st Abn Artillery
508th Parachute Combat Team
82nd Airborne Division.*

Hopefully, those who planned to attend All-
American Week will accept this invitation instead.
We can arrange tours of the Airborne Museums
after our six-mile runs!



Badger State Chapter

82nd Airborne Association

Officers

- Mike Haller, Chairman
608-356-3235
- Sean Beaudette, Vice-Chair
608-269-0513
- John Givens, Secretary
608-788-3651
- Reuben Clark, Treasurer
608-222-4833
- Gerald Diemel, Sgt. at Arms
715-758-8365
- Steve Helms, Adjutant
920-832-9090

Trustees

- Tom Gaukel- thru 2010
608-355-2382
- Gordy Starck- thru 2010
414-425-3908
- Frank Morris- thru 20010
715-693-6161

Badger Airborne News
Tom Laney, Editor
tlaney1776@gmail.com
715-962-4365

BSC AGENDA

March 28, 2009

- I. Call to Order: Time: 2.00 Meeting dedicated to Ed Moerhke
- II. Pledge and Prayer: Reuben Clark
- III. Approval Minutes of 11/15/08.
- IV. Treasurer Report
- V. Secretary Report
- VI. Vice Chair comments—Command Operational Planning
- VII. Chair comments
- VIII. Project coordinators, project status update—Display Cases
- IX. Old Business
 - 1. Dinner honoring WWII Wisconsin Airborne Vets
 - 2. Fund Raising & Raffle.

BREAK

- X. New Business
 - 1. Baraboo Air show
 - 2. Tent Rental
 - 3. XI. Members comments and suggestions
- XII. Adjourn Time: 5:00

Eat, Drink & Be Merry!

Message from Iron Mike

A greeting to all members, wives, friends and guests.

We had a very good attendance at our last meeting on November 15, 2008 at King, Wisconsin. Your support is appreciated in promoting and continuing the Badger Chapter's Airborne Legacy to honor Airborne veterans, retired and active.

Executive meeting was held at Tomah in January to plan our agenda for 2009. Refer to newsletter for details. Looking forward to seeing all of you again at King, Wisconsin on March 28th. Go Airborne! Chairman, Mike Haller

Hotels

Comfort Suites Waupaca ("B" on map.)- 1-715-942-0500 - King bed rate - \$65.00

Best Western Waupaca ("C" on map.)
715-258-9212 - \$69.00 -
(Rooms are plus tax)

Call by March 21st and mention 82nd Airborne for rate.

Next BSC Meeting:

March 28, 2009

Marden Center King Vets' Home, King, WI

Social gathering 1pm

Meeting 2:00 to 5:00

Drinks 5:00 to 5:30

Turkey, Ham, Veggies, Dessert!

Dinner 5:30 PM

\$16.50 (includes tax & tip)

Send dinner reservation checks by 3/21

To: Reuben Clark, Treas.

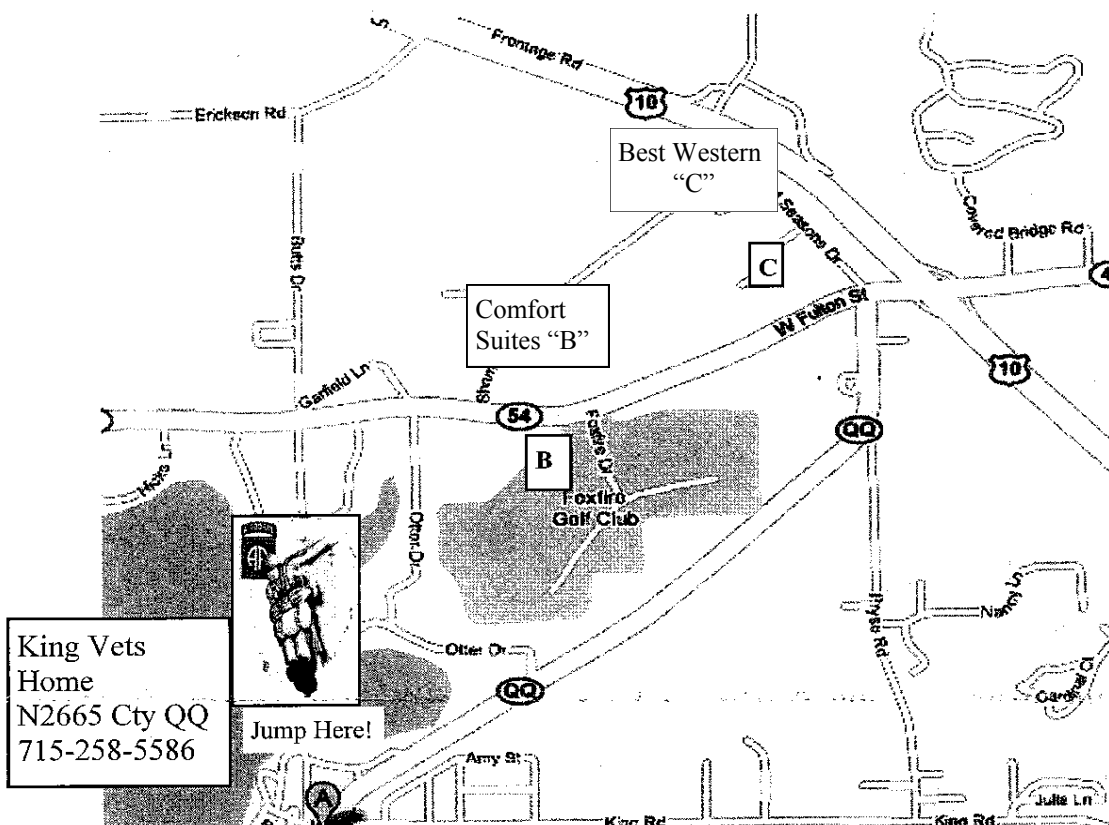
5318 Greenbriar Lane,

Madison, WI 53714-3404

608-222-4833

The Road to King

A. State of Wisconsin: Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery-King
N2665 County Road QQ, King, WI
(715) 258-5586



RANGERS RECON

Rangers lead the way!

By Kipp Hartman, our favorite Madison cop

Working on the SWAT team we get tasked with going after some of the toughest criminals in the City. Our Commanders will list the offences that they have committed the use of weapons and of course the infamous quote "I'm never going back to prison."

Of course when well trained and heavily armed men come crashing through their doors in the early morning, waking them from a peaceful slumber, these hardened criminals tend to curl up in a ball and scream.

Earlier this year I was walking through a large outdoor sports store with my family. This time not heavily clad in body armour or weapons, I walked the store casually carrying my young son. My wife first noticed a man walking with a friend, both rather cocky, with a Ranger hat on his head with several medals.

I didn't say anything to the man at the time but figured if I ran in to him in the store later I would chat up about how I am a Ranger too. Sure enough, I ran into him and mentioned that I was a Ranger and asked about his graduation date. What I received was a deer in the headlights look followed by several moments of silence. Finally the cocky man started to mutter some sort of class date that clearly was no Ranger School class date, and he further made excuses to why he could not remember his class date. Mine is 07/01. Finally he gave his friend the time to go NOW look and off they went for the nearest exit.

I looked at my son and commented to him "Daddy found a fake."

Serving in the Airborne means never having to pretend to be the best because you have already proven it. It has been proven since WWII to Korea, Vietnam to Panama, to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Airborne All The Way!
Kipp Hartman



Nancy J. Pakulski

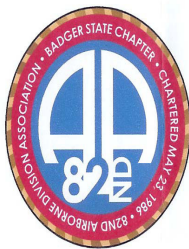
Nancy J. Pakulski, 81, of Plover, died Saturday afternoon, Jan. 17, 2009, at the Strawberry Lane Medical & Rehabilitation Center in Wisconsin Rapids.

She was born Dec. 16, 1927, in Cudahy to the late Rudolph and Marie Thrular and was a graduate of Cudahy High School. On Dec. 28, 1957,

Nancy was married to WWII 82nd Airborne Veteran and BSC leader, Walter Pakulski at St. Paul's Catholic Church in St. Francis.

Nancy enjoyed cooking, baking and traveling and she was a member of the St. Peter's Rosary Society, Secular Order of St. Francis at St. Peter's, lifetime member of VFW Post No. 10262 Auxiliary in Plover, Moose Lodge No. 1572, Marshfield Eagles Club and the Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

She is survived by her husband, Walter, of Plover and her loving son, Mark (born on Valentine's Day) of Plover, and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in Nancy's name to St. Peter Parish. Nancy's funeral was attended by many BSC members and friends. She was a great friend of the Airborne.



BSC Challenge Coins! All proceeds will benefit the BSC. Prices: Non-Members & Legs: \$10 each. BSC Members: \$8 each for one to five; \$7 each for six or more. (Plus shipping.) Order from John Givens, 4355 Mariah Dr. S., La-Crosse, WI 54601-2355 Ph. 608-788-3651.

Email: johngivens996@centurytel.net



Do you know these Airborne guys? Send us the names if you do! -Photo from Walt Pakulski.

BADGER AIRBORNE: Who we are, Where we were



16/03/2007 9:52 pm



The Spirit: "Thank you God, for making me one of those great, Airborne Characters!" - Ben Rous, 502nd PIR, 101st Airborne Division, Bastogne; Member, Old Abe 101st Abn and Badger State Chapter , 82nd Airborne Division Assoc.

What we do: Let every Airborne Soldier know, we remember you!



Mail Call

All The Way John!

10 Nov. 2008
Badger Airborne News
82nd Airborne Division Assoc.

Dear Members,

I have now been on the Iraq ground since October and in that time I feel as if I've had a lifetime's worth of experiences and the lessons just keep coming.

I think I have finally gotten into the rhythm in order to manage the workload. My living conditions are very good. A typical day for me is up at 4:30AM, if possible, do PT for an hour, breakfast, and into headquarters and be briefed on current operations for the day.

Many folks have asked about the attacks. I believe in a good deal of the country, but not everywhere, attacks and casualties are down. Most importantly, the soldiers who patrol the streets side-by-side with the Iraqi Security Forces will tell you they see it too. We're seeing the markets and schools reopening and many signs of Iraqi economy in progress.

There are still immense challenges. Nothing in Iraq is easy. However, I believe that everything is worth the extra effort required.

AIRBORNE,

Col. John A. Scocos
United States Army
(Aside from fighting in Iraq, Col. Scocos is a Secretary of Wisconsin's Veterans Affairs and a Paratrooper member of the Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Assoc.)

Response to Thanks

(This is from Col. Will Huff, Commander of 2/321st Airborne Artillery, 508th Airborne Brigade, 82nd All Americans, responding to our thank you for sending three Paratroopers to our BSC Sept. meeting.)

Tom,

The Paratroopers got at least as much out of experience as they gave.

Our Battalion is committed to staying engaged and maintaining enduring relationship.

Please keep in contact and will ensure you are

kept informed of our unit's activity, our next deployment has been officially released for next summer to Iraq.

Godspeed,
Will Huff

Need a Flag? Patriot Riders will put one up for you!

Hey Tom,

We are setting up a run this year for 9/11 and would like to know if you would like to get involved. I would be happy to explain the scholarship funds that we are going to make available to anyone who needs our help. They would receive up to \$500.00

We also have many events this year and our arms are always wide open to you and your brothers. One big one is our Flags for Vets program. If you know any veteran that does not have a flag pole in their yard, we would be happy to donate the pole, flag and we install them.

If you know anyone who needs our help, please let us know. Here is the 9/11 site:
www.aprheroesrun.com

God Bless your Chapter and your continued efforts to making a difference. Talk soon Brother!

Rocco Stucci
Patriot Riders

Ecumenical Airborne

Hey Tom.

Appreciate all your e-mails and all the info. I get to see in the newsletter.

It is especially meaningful to me to see that the BSC AGAIN got some 82nd and 101st Airborne guys together and, again, have Nam Vets appearing with Vets from other wars.

It all reminds me of a picture I have etched in my mind and take a look at it every single day. The one you took at my Dad's funeral, "Ben's Band of Brothers". Four Vietnam Vets and four WWII Vets AND equal numbers of 82nd and 101st Airborne Vets. Exactly what Dad stood for and took on himself to facilitate in any way he could.

You captured it all in that picture and it is just

great to see more of the same gathering of our heroes at the 101st Airborne meeting in Sauk City.

All The Way,

Gaylord Rous
(Ben Rous's son)

"Big Ed" Moerhke Dies



Edward Moerhke with nephew in 1946.

Edward "Big Ed" Moerhke, 82, died Feb. 3 in McFarland just a few days after his wife, Millie died on January 15 after a long illness.

Big Ed was a model Paratrooper—contentious, combative, loquacious and fun. A Military Historian, he loved the Airborne and was a longtime member of the Badger Chapter.

He entered the Army in 1945. Ed said, "During the Infantry training, four very handsome Paratroopers came from Ft. Benning to recruit amongst our battalion. YEE-GAW-DH! Those Paratroopers were great looking with their bloused pants, spiffy boots and white silk scarfs at their necks. The four Troopers also had Silver Airborne Wings and Glider/Parachute cap emblems. WOW! I was hooked!"

Ed's favorite story was about Gen. Gavin visiting him in the hospital after he shattered a leg on a jump. "Jim Gavin came to see me—a lowly PFC! This now very old PFC still holds Gen. Gavin in great esteem." He served with the 13th and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

Son Warren said there is a memorial planned for June. Details in next BAN.

Airborne Events

BSC Meeting King, March 28, 2009. (Details Pg. 2)

Glider Lunch & Tour, Wausau VFW Noon April 2, Call Les Schwarm 715-842-7553 Email: lschwarm1@juno.com

Highground Annual Spring Work Weekend April 22-25, Call 715-743-4224 to volunteer.

Baraboo Air Show Airborne Exposition, June 26-30, Call Sean Beaudette, 608-269-0513; or Mike Haller 608-356-3235 if you can help!

WWII Airborne Heroes Dinner, July 11 Call Tom Gaukel 608-355-2382



Dec. 23, 1944 - "Battle of the Bulge" - An entire U.S. armored division was retreating from the Germans in the Ardennes forest when a sergeant in a tank destroyer spotted an American digging a foxhole. The G.I. PFC Martin "Slick" Rider Infantry Regiment, looked up and asked, "Are you looking for a safe place?" "Yeah," answered the tankers. "Right, buddy," he shrilled. "Just pull your vehicle behind me!"

I'm the 82nd Airborne, and this is as far as the bastards are going.'

AIRBORNE MUSEUM DISPLAY

The Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. is attempting to gather authentic Airborne memorabilia to be used in display cases to be placed in Veterans' facilities and local museums throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Our goal is to promote the legacy of Wisconsin Airborne Veterans. If you have any authentic Airborne memorabilia that you would be willing to share for our displays, we would greatly appreciate it. Your name will be placed with any donation on display and any memorabilia you donate will be returned to you at your request. Donations could include: patches, uniforms, pictures, medals, materials, equipment, etc.

If you would like more information on our Museum project to promote the Wisconsin Airborne Legacy or to find out about membership, please contact Tom Gaukel, 1721 Manassas Dr., Baraboo, WI 53913. Call: (608) 355-2382.

Car Pool— For those of you who don't care to drive or are concerned with the price of gas, (like all of us) , why not try car pooling to BSC Meetings? Next issue we will publish a "By Post Office" list of BSC members in your area. Call and ask a Trooper to attend a meeting with you. It's worth a try now!



Membership Application
82nd Airborne Division Association
Paratroopers, Glider Riders from all Units, Divisions, Services—
Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard — Welcome!



(Circle one) New Member Renewal Reinstatement Life Member
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email _____
Phone _____ Rank _____ ASN _____ Or, SSN _____
Airborne Unit(s) _____
Dates of Airborne Service _____ to _____
Month, Day, Year Month, Day, Year
Rank _____ Birthday _____
Occupation _____ Single _____ Married _____
Spouse's Name _____ Children's Names _____
Chapter preference _____ Preferred Beer(s) _____

(Provide DD214 proof of Jump/Glider qualification.)
Enclosed is \$15.00, my membership dues for 2008 (Includes subscription to *Paraglide* magazine)
ASK— About our terrific Life Membership deal!
Make checks payable to: Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.
Mail to: Reuben Clark, BSC Treas., 5318 Greenbriar Lane, Madison, WI 53714-3404



Badger Airborne News
 82nd Airborne Division Assoc.
 E6304 866th Ave.
 Colfax, WI 54730



Check your dues! Keep Badger Airborne News Dropping/Gliding in! RE-UP BSC today!

The Badger Airborne Memorial

The BSC members listed below have contributed to the Hwy. 10 Bridge "Airborne Memorial" in Stevens point.

All members are urged to contribute to the Memorial Endowment Fund. Your name will be placed on the Memorial stone and your \$100 contribution will be invested in the Memorial Endowment Fund. The interest earned from the endowment fund is used to pay for the annual maintenance of the flowers and general care of the Memorial.

If you would like to be involved in the Airborne Memorial Project and help guarantee that the Memorial will be permanently maintained and cared for, please send your \$100 to Mike Haller or Reuben Clark along with your name printed as you would like it on the Memorial stone.

Memorial Endowment Fund Contributors:

John H. Givens, Tom J. Gaukel, Tom

Schoettler, James E. Richardson, Edward G. "Big Ed" Moehrke, Gerald A. Chipman, Howard Rennhack, Ralph Rennhack, Roy Rennhack, Charles F. Loy, Duane Erdmann, Harry Hauri, James A. Pratt, Ketchel R. Rinehart, Gordon R. Starck, Ralph M. Clifford, John J. Verga, Marlin Lepak, Hugh "Ben" Rous, Neil R. Foye, Gerald L. Diemel, Reuben Clark, Norb Studelska, Joe Belsha, Bob Phillips, Tom "Apache" Laney.
 Thanks! - Tom Gaukel

Doc Stolp, says of our Airborne Memorial (which he designed and Walt Pakulski worked his Airborne butt off for) in Stevens Point: "Remember, it is the job of Paratroopers and Glider Riders to operate behind enemy lines, seizing and holding bridges for the Infantry, thus the Airborne Bridge Memorial."

